

Remarks

In the above-referenced Office Action the Examiner rejected independent Claim 1 under 35 USC 102 citing the De Tore et al. patent and separately under 35 USC 103 citing the Jensen et al. patent. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is requested for the following reasons:

Claim 1 as amended now calls for a prop wash deflector means for deflecting prop wash away from cargo carried by a helicopter, and further that the skirt is rigid and substantially frustro-conical. A marked-up copy is attached

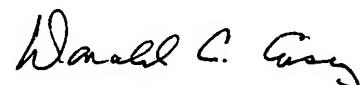
Concerning the De Tore et al. patent, this patent describes a combination rotary wing and ground effect machine. The ground effect machine portion relates to downwardly directed air jets formed by a duct in the peripheral wall 22 of the platform and the surrounding cowl 24. The purpose of the downwardly directed jets is to achieve a hydrofoil type of movement for the helicopter. This ground effect could not be achieved unless the jets were downwardly directed, and it is designed to provide an increased lift for the helicopter. In contrast, independent Claim 1, as amended, calls for a skirt for deflecting the prop wash outwardly away from the cargo not downwardly onto the cargo. Furthermore, the platform described in De Tore is not frustro-conical and is intended not to deflect the prop wash but rather to capture it as shown for example in figure 5.

The Jensen et al. patent also does not teach a prop wash deflector. In the Jensen patent a hull is intended to be mounted between the skids and is to provide an amphibious capability so that it can land on water. There is no teaching for using such a helicopter with a hull mounted outside of the skids. The hull is not frustro-conical, and does not open downwardly.

Accordingly, it is submitted that neither patent teaches the invention of independent Claim 1 as amended. Accordingly, applicant considers that Claim 1 is allowable and that the remaining claims are also allowable as depending from an allowable independent claim.

The Examiner has required formal drawings, and the drawings are attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,



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